

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2003

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove: 172nd Airlift Wing Setting the Standard for Air National Guard Units

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove said Saturday the 172nd Airlift Wing of the MS Air National Guard is setting the standards for Air National Guard units across the United States. Musgrove made his remarks as the 172nd received its tenth Outstanding Unit Award.

“This is a tremendous honor and I am proud to recognize the 172nd Airlift Wing for a job well done,” said Musgrove. “They have shown their patriotism and commitment to protecting this country and representing the state of Mississippi, and this award is a testament to their excellence and performance. They are the best of the best.”

This is the 10th occasion that the distinguished award has been presented by the U.S. Air Force. Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard, presented the 172nd Airlift Wing the award on Saturday, July 12, as part of the 172nd Air Wings 50th Anniversary Celebration at Thompson Field.

The Secretary of the Air Force awards this honor to units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally commendable service of national or international significance that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

The wing’s accomplishments during the two-year evaluation period include numerous overseas deployments and strategic missions such as European and Azores Medical Evacuation missions to Hanoi, Vietnam to recover the remains of service members listed as Missing In Action and re-supply missions to American Embassies in South America. As part of its support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the 172nd Logistics Squadron has supervised the distribution of over 140 million gallons of petroleum products.

###